

control a literal construction which leads to injustice and absurdity. "A statute may be construed contrary to its literal meaning when a literal construction would result in an absurdity or inconsistency."

Leo v. Board of Medical Examiners, 36 Cal. App. (2d) 490, 493.

This result would not obtain, however, if one who graduated from a foreign medical school chooses to disregard his diploma from said school and the work completed therein and to start his medical education anew in this country, completing in a school or schools in this country the full residence course required for a diploma, and thereafter make said diploma the basis for his application.

VII

Your seventh question reads as follows:

We assume your opinion on the above will hold in the instance of a foreign medical school graduate licensed in another state who seeks a California reciprocity certificate.

Business and Professions Code Section 2316, on the subject of reciprocity, reads as follows:

He shall inform the board on his application form of all institutions from which he has graduated and of all institutions at which he has studied and the period of this study.

The requirements of the college from which he has graduated and the requirements of the medical licensing authority shall not have been at the time his certificate was issued in any degree or particular less than those which were required for the issuance of a similar certificate to practice a system or mode of treating the sick or afflicted in this State at the same time. (Italics supplied.)

By virtue of the italicized language of said code section, it is my opinion that a graduate of a foreign medical school who applies for reciprocity in California, based on a certificate issued to him in another state after the adoption of Business and Professions Code Section 2193 (originally Stats. 1913, p. 722) or the date of the adoption of the applicable amendments thereto, is not entitled to such reciprocity unless the state whose certificate he uses as the basis of his reciprocity application had a statute similar to Business and Professions Code Section 2193 at the time he was admitted to practice in said State and the applicant had met the requirements of said statute in securing admittance to practice therein.

Very truly yours,

EARL WARREN,
Attorney General.

By THOMAS COAKLEY,
Deputy.

Concerning the California Regional Fracture Committee of the American College of Surgeons.

To the Editor:—The American College of Surgeons realizing that in some instances patients suffering fractures of the extremities and back have been inadequately treated, has therefore appointed fracture committees in every State of the Union.

The purpose of these committees is to help educate the medical profession in order that better first-aid treatment might be given to the injured. Better results are obtained when the injured extremity is immediately placed in traction using the Thomas type of splint with bandage or cloth traction applied over the shoe if necessary. The ambulances in incorporated cities now carry Thomas splints as part of their first aid equipment. They also have stretchers with a pillow which will prevent angulation and possible spinal cord injury in those patients suffering fractures of the spine. The patient then should be speedily transported to an approved hospital wherein the accepted type of x-ray examination is performed. The College is desirous of having all hospitals, which accept fracture cases, be equipped with fracture beds, Balkan frames, suitable apparatus for weighted traction, and the usual apparatus for skeletal traction.

Organized hospital staff conferences should be given at least once a year by men particularly interested in fractures and the entire evening should be devoted to the proper care of the injured. All patients suffering with serious fractures should have a consultation with a doctor particularly skilled in the treatment of fractures and adequate progress notes should be filed with the patient's chart.

California, being a large State, has two fracture committees, the centers being San Francisco and Los Angeles. The members of these committees are willing to enter into consultation with the attending physician and if necessary to give their services gratuitously. If all of these ideas are continuously carried out in California, better end results will be obtained in the injured.

The Committee for Southern California is as follows:

Los Angeles

Frank J. Breslin, Los Angeles, Chairman.
Francis M. McKeever, Los Angeles, Secretary.
William Arthur Clark, Pasadena.
John Ball, Santa Ana.
Harold D. Barnard, Los Angeles.
Philip J. Cunnane, Los Angeles.
Wallace Dodge, Los Angeles.
Clyde E. Early, Los Angeles.
Charles Phillips, Los Angeles.
Harry Schurmeier, Santa Barbara.
Arthur L. Weber, Upland.
Robert W. Wilcox, Long Beach.
John C. Wilson, Los Angeles.
Benjamin M. Frees, Los Angeles.
Alfred E. Gallant, Los Angeles.

San Diego

Maynard C. Harding, San Diego, Chairman.
Paul R. Brust, San Diego.
Elmo G. Crabtree, San Diego.
Ralph Kaysen, San Diego.
Fraser L. MacPherson, San Diego.
Louis Strahlman, San Diego.

San Francisco

Lt. Col. N. T. Kirk, San Francisco, Chairman.
Frederic C. Bost, San Francisco.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK J. BRESLIN, M. D., Chairman,
The Regional Fracture Committee
The American College of Surgeons.

Concerning Rheumatic Heart Disease*

SAN FRANCISCO MEDICAL SCHOOL

March 25, 1941.

To the Editor:

On December 27, 1940, Dr. Howard F. West sent me the following letter:

"By postcard ballot the Executive Committee of the California Heart Association has unanimously voted to submit to the State Board of Health a recommendation that rheumatic heart disease be made a reportable disease. I am enclosing a formal statement to that effect.

"I would like to appoint you as a committee of one to draft a definition of rheumatic fever that you think would be appropriate to accompany this request. Of course, you may consult with any of the San Francisco men whom you may desire."

It seemed important to me that before making rheumatic fever a reportable disease, considerable education might advantageously be carried on in the JOURNAL of the California Medical Association. I made this proposal, and have been delegated to approach Doctor Kress with this in mind, so he may make editorial comments to a point where the profession will be willing to accept the fact that the

* For editorial comment, see page 58.